

\$1.3 million For New Rails to Trails Project, \$196,514 for Advanced Workforce Training at the Baylor Advanced Research Institute, \$98,257 for Financial Literacy at the Heart of Texas Workforce Development Center and \$166,250 for the Paul Quinn Campus

(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Chet Edwards announced that funding he has secured in the 2009 Appropriations bill will help McLennan County's economic development, train new workers and teach much needed financial literacy. The funding was included by Edwards in the final 2009 Appropriations bill, which passed the House Wednesday by a vote of 245 to 178.

Edwards continued his efforts to improve recreation facilities which will help keep families healthy at Lake Waco by securing \$1.3 million to create a new route for the Rails to Trails project at the bridge over the South Bosque River. The new route will bring the trail closer to the river and will provide a safer route for children and families, encouraging more much-needed outdoor, physical activity. Federal funding secured by Edwards over the past several years has been instrumental in completing park improvements throughout Lake Waco facilities.

"This new trail will allow families to spend quality time together at improved recreational facilities at Lake Waco," said Edwards. "As a father of two young sons, I am thrilled that thousands of McLennan County families will have the ability to enjoy the great outdoors together at Lake Waco for years to come."

Waco City Manager Larry Groth said, "This funding will get us closer to our goal of completing the McGregor Road hike and bike trail and allow the city to provide a quality recreational opportunity to our families in the highway 84 corridor. We want to thank Congressman Edwards for listening to our concerns and working closely with us to make this project a reality."

Edwards secured \$196,514 for equipment at a new workforce development and training program as part of the Baylor Advanced Research Institute (BARI). In partnership with Texas State Technical College (TSTC), the program will establish research-related training experiences for Baylor University undergraduate and graduate students in the leading fields of science, engineering, and technology. "The program will develop an advanced workforce through innovative research that will drive business development in the Waco area," said Edwards.

Edwards also secured \$98,257 for the Heart of Texas Workforce Development Center to increase financial literacy. "During these difficult financial times investing in financial

literacy training is critical," said Edwards. These funds will help Texans make smart decisions to help them through this tough economy."

\$95,000 for the AVANCE Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support Program in Waco was also included in the legislation. These funds will help AVANCE serve 300 families from at-risk, low income households with parenting education, early childhood development, ESL and GED classes. "Investing in workforce training, and family support services will truly make a difference in the lives of our families," said Edwards.

Edwards continued his commitment to renovating facilities at the Paul Quinn Campus by securing \$166,250 to continue renovations on the historic campus. Since 2003, Edwards has secured nearly 1.4 million to construct an indoor pool, parking, and multipurpose center on the redeveloped campus to improve educational, and recreational activities in East Waco.

"The Quinn campus is an important part of Waco's social fabric, and I am proud to work with local leaders to continue these important community revitalization efforts," said Edwards. "Helping to provide educational and recreational opportunities for children and families will invest in the future and help foster economic development in East Waco."